

Death 2421

Death... and me

Chapter 2421: The past on the other side

Kafan then tried to reassure Roan. "Oh, you don't need to worry, though. This influence we exert on the Death Spirit copies is only capable of preventing them from harboring rebellious thoughts against the Organization, that's all. Other than this, their thoughts and desires are all theirs. We do not influence them at all. They are already doing so much for our side of the Universe. We couldn't truly take away all their self-awareness."

Roan also agreed with that. He truly did have his own aspirations back then. He seldom ever took free time from his job, but when he did, he did go around doing things he liked. After all, each span of free time would usually take hundreds of years. But then again, it was true he had never thought about rebelling against the Organization. If anything, they provided quite a good work environment if you compare it with the work environment on Rean's planet.

"Anyway," Kafan continued. "Death Spirits are mostly copies of the real ones with a big flaw. Nonetheless, they are perfect for the job of keeping this side of the Universe proper for races to develop. They can't do things like cultivation. However, if you take the Earth Planet of Rean as an example, the lack of cultivation energy opened doors for new types of development. Aren't they technologically developed? There are quite a few planets on this side that reached the same results, and you know that."

"Well, I still believe they would take cultivation energy over technological development any time of the day," Roan said. "After all, you could increase your lifespan as your realms increased. Who wouldn't rather live thousands of years instead?"

"Well, there might be a few who would prefer the way it is," Kafan considered. "Still, you were right. Most would definitely prefer cultivation instead. Too bad, though. Even if this side of the Universe was suddenly filled with Spiritual and Divine Energy, the races here would have no use for it."

Roan understood why. "Countless years have passed since the extinction sphere event. Most races alive today aren't even connected to races that were alive back then. They were born and evolved in a Universe where cultivation energies don't exist. Logically, their bodies don't have the capability of creating Dantians or Cores. They simply wouldn't be able to cultivate at all."

"Exactly," Kafan was happy Roan understood. "Well, it's not like there aren't ways around it. I, for example, do have a few methods that would allow the races on this side to start cultivation. I developed them out of boredom during my life on this side. Still, they would all be artificial ones. None of these methods would be anywhere as good as the natural Dantians and Cores."

"That reminds me," Roan thought about the races of this side of the Universe. "Back when the extinction sphere was destroyed, it split the Universe, right? At that time, both sides had cultivation energy. What happened to all the races that could cultivate during that time?"

Kafan sighed as he reminisced about those times. "That... wasn't a very good time for our Death Spirit Race."

Kafan began to tell Roan the story of when the Universe was split in two. Back then, the split event killed countless lives. After all, there were many races, planets, etc, that lived around the region of the split. Anyone up to a few million light-years of distance from the splitting area on both sides was completely destroyed down to their atoms.

"You have to understand that for the Universe to be split, it had to be somewhere near the center," Kafan said. "Where do you think the most powerful races that dominated the Universe were located back then?"

Roan didn't need to think to know the answer. "Obviously, the center. That's where you would be closest to the Chaos Source. Now that I think about it, could you get Divine Energy without being in the Realm of Gods back then?"

"You could," Kafan nodded. "Well, that matters little now. Still, back then, Hyeoumu also stayed with the Realm of Gods on his back near the center. Yet, he knew that the extinction sphere would be too dangerous, so he got far away from it before Soul Gem initiated his plan to destroy it. Fortunately for him, he moved to the side where the Chaos Source is located today."

Roan nodded. "Since this side has no cultivation energies, it is safe to believe the Chaos Source is on the other side. Correct?"

Kafan was satisfied Roan understood. "Exactly. It is also one more reason for us to believe the Chaos Origin Source exists. If it didn't, why would the other side have cultivation energies and this one not? It

wouldn't make sense. Of course, I could think about a few other reasons for that, but I'm adamant the Chaos Origin Source does exist."

"Anyway, I almost died that day. I did not take part in the battle against the Vruve Organization at that time, though. Our Death Spirit Race had so few members, so we simply preferred to stay out of the fight between Soul Gem and the Wafrol Forces. Well, the Wafrol forces took over Soul Gem's Vruve Organization and call themselves Vruves now. Soul Gem was pretty mad at this fact. Hehehe!"

"That's another thing I want to talk about. You know about the system, so Soul Gem must have come to find you," said Roan.

Kafan nodded. "Yes, he did. Don't worry. I will talk about that later. For now, let me focus on the events in the past."

"As you can imagine, chaos took over after many of the powerful races and experts were wiped out near the center of the Universe. Our Death Spirit Race, however, immediately distanced itself from any power struggle. Once again, we just didn't have many members back then. And experts at my level, like you already know, are prohibited from intervening with anything due to the agreement."

Kafan then sighed. "Yet... the initial chaos and struggle for power was nothing compared to what would unfold a few tens of thousands of years later."

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Chapter 2422: They continued

"Back then, the fight for power on this new side was quite harsh," Kafan continued. "Without the main protagonist races of the Universe to get in their way, all the remaining powers went all out to secure resourceful planets."

Kafan then remembered something. "Oh, by the way, this side of the Universe does have an equivalent to the Underworld and the Heavens. It's just that these two were also split back then. Nowadays, both the Heavens and the Underworld on this side are just like the mortal realm on the other side. The 'angels' and 'devils' from both realms have no cultivation whatsoever."

"There is no equivalent to the Realm of Gods?" Roan couldn't help but ask.

"Hum... if there is, it would be our Universal Transition Organization," Kafan answered. "Of course, our Organization is nothing compared to Hyeoumu. In the end, the Realm of Gods is kind of a special case. It is not truly a 'new land' but a living being instead."

Kafan then returned to the previous topic. "Anyway, let me continue. When the fight for power reached its climax, even my Death Spirit Race received quite a few visits. They all wanted my Death Spirit Race to join their side. When we refused, we were attacked because of their fear. After all, even though I can't move due to the agreement, it didn't mean the other Death Spirits couldn't."

Roan understood. "All the powers were in this war for resources and power, hurting each other. How could they leave an untouched Death Spirit Race on the sides without doing anything? Wouldn't that be the same as delivering themselves in a silver platter later on?"

"It was exactly as you said," Kafan nodded. "Of course, the agreement says I can't intervene in the power struggle of the Universe, but it didn't stop me from at least protecting my race. Once the situation got too urgent, I took all the remaining Death Spirits away and secluded myself. Nonetheless, my Death Spirit Race, which was already small to start with, got a really big blow."

Kafan then laughed. "However, Karma is such a weird thing. All these races that came after my Death Spirit Race truly didn't know what was waiting for them. Hahaha!"

"The Chaos Origin Source..." Roan commented.

Kafan nodded. "Exactly! The Chaos Origin Source was on the other half of the Universe. Thus, there was nothing on this side to replenish the cultivation energy of the Universe anymore. During the first thousands of years, no one noticed anything. After all, this side still had all the accumulated cultivation energy from before the split."

"As you can imagine, it didn't last forever. The first sign that the cultivation energies of this side of the Universe were fading was the disappearance of the realm division barriers."

"Realm Division Barriers?" That was the first time Roan heard about it.

Kafan nodded and then explained. "On the other side of the Universe, you have the Realm of Gods, Mortal Realm, Underworld, and the Heavens, right? However, except for the Divinity Realm beings, entering any of these three realms is pretty much impossible. The only solution was the Pseudo-Temporal Paths or the real Temporal Path. That's why each realm saw the entrance of the Temporal Path with such huge importance."

Roan saw where Kafan was coming from. "I see... There is indeed a barrier that separates all four realms on the other side. Naturally, since the Universe was split, this side was supposed to have such barriers as well."

Kafan nodded. "That's pretty much it. However, without the cultivation energies to maintain this division, the barrier finally collapsed. Did you know? Until that point, the Devils, Angels, and Living Beings were completely isolated from each other. This side did not have a Temporal Path, and the Pseudo-Temporal Paths completely disappeared after the Universe split. Only when the division barriers fell down did all three sides get the chance to interact with each other again."

Kafan narrowed his eyes. "This is quite annoying. You know what? For the sake of identification, I'm going to call this place the Living Realm, okay?" Roan nodded and waited for Kafan to continue. "Good. Now we have the Living Realm, Angel Realm (Heavens), and the Underworld Realm. It's easier to talk about the three this way."

"So, how do you think the Living Realm fared after the split?" Kafan asked.

Roan pondered a bit and answered. "The Living Realm was in this war during the last ten thousand years for power, hurting its forces. When the division barrier between realms fell, the Living Realm had very little power to defend against the Underworld and Heavens. Now I understand why you said Karma struck back."

Kafan was happy to hear that. "Hehe! That was exactly the case. Well, to be more specific, the Devils weren't that much better of a condition either. Devils are extremely territorial and like power as much as the Living Realm beings do. The main problem was the Angel Realm (Heavens). You probably already know how the angels rarely get into conflicts against each other, right? That wasn't different back then. So, when the Division Barrier disappeared, the angels had by far the strongest force between the three realms."

"Angels also hate devils to the core, so how could they lose that chance? They immediately acted and attacked the Underworld now that the path was open. The initial years were quite gruesome to the

devils... and the Living Realm. You may ask why. That was because the Angels also didn't see the Living Realm with good eyes. Since their advantage was that big, they might as well subjugate the Living Realm to fit their standards."

Roan didn't need to think much to know what happened next. "That's when the Living Realm and Devils allied. Am I correct?"

Kafan confirmed Roan's words. "Correct. Now, all three sides once again entered an even more meaningless war. Do you know what was really dumb? It was the fact that they should have noticed the steady decrease in the concentration of cultivation energies. Still, they continued..."

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Chapter 2423: The Outcome

"You seem to be enjoying talking about the past events," Roan couldn't help but comment.

Kafan shrugged his shoulders. "That's your fault. You were the one who asked about it earlier, remember? I couldn't tell you all of this before since it would end in your discovering your identity as a copy. Well, that's not a problem anymore. If you want, we can stop it here, and I can answer other questions you have."

Roan shook his head. Information was important, regardless of how old it was. What he hears about the past might have an impact on his decisions in the future, so he would rather hear the entire tale to the end. "Just continue."

"No problem," Kafan happily obliged. "So, the three realms got in a war where the Devils and Living Beings fought against the Angels. The worst part was that their constant fight all over this side of the Universe was consuming more and more cultivation energies. That only accelerated the process."

"Still, they continued like that for another twenty-some thousand years!" Kafan felt annoyed just thinking about it. "Even the karma I talked about had already lost its fun by now. It had been over thirty thousand years since the split of the Universe, and the cultivation energies concentration had dropped to just a tenth of what it was before the split."

Kafan then remembered a meeting that happened during that time. "Finally, all three sides stopped. The leaders of these three sides were forced to the table against their choice. They all had suffered greatly and lost so much. Yet, they still wanted to continue. The only reason they decided to talk about it was simply because there were no more cultivation energies to keep the war going."

"By now, only the top experts, those at the Void Tempering Realm or above, could continue to travel to other locations to do battle. Yet, even they were taking much longer than usual to reach such places, sometimes taking hundreds of years. Teleport Formations could still be used since you could power them with Divine, Devilish, or Heavenly Stones. Still, each one used was one less in existence."

Roan agreed. "With this side of the Universe's lack of cultivation energy, things like Divine Stones and similar also stopped to appear. That's only logical."

"Exactly," Kafan nodded. "Now, with all three powers on the table, they finally reached a resolution. If they continued this war and used even more of their cultivation energies, they would eventually have none left. This outcome was obvious since a long time ago, but they had to reach the critical point to accept it."

"You couldn't blame them, though." Roan suddenly mentioned. "If you think about it, they all noticed the cultivation energies were disappearing after the first ten thousand years. What does that mean? That means they must seize as many territories, cultivation locations, and cultivation resources as possible before the situation escalates. The one with the most left would be the ultimate victor... or so the three probably thought."

"Indeed," Kafan knew Roan was right. "In the end, not even a race like the angels could stop the power of greed from taking them. Too bad none of the three sides got any advantage in the end and reached their own demise together. So what if they finally met and decided to stop the war? With only a tenth of the total cultivation energies left, there was nothing they could do. If anything, the situation only got worse from there."

"Let me guess," Roan cut in. "Now that they all stopped the war, there was no one to fight. That meant all the cultivators, demon beasts, devils, and angels had to seize the opportunity to cultivate as much as possible. Otherwise, the rest of the cultivation energies of this side of the Universe would be gone, and they would get stuck."

"Correct," said Kafan. "Immediately after the war, a cultivation frenzy started. Well, the war was over, but the battles didn't stop."

"Obviously," Roan nodded. "With so little cultivation energies to go around, everyone could only rely on cultivation resources like Divine Stones. At such a time, the possession of any kind of cultivation resource could be considered a crime. Without a doubt, the war between devils, cultivators, demon beasts, and angels stopped. Yet, the fight inside their own races started instead. All for the sake of cultivation. Now, they didn't have to travel to such faraway places to fight the war of the three realms. They could do battle right in their garden and use as much cultivation resources as possible."

"One thing led to another, and the cultivation energy of the Universe continued to decrease. A tenth, a hundredth, a thousandth..." Kafan sighed as he remembered it. "Finally, the cultivation energy remaining was so scarce that even the usage of formations to gather it didn't work anymore. The formations themselves didn't get enough energy to simply work, let alone output extra cultivation energy for their users."

"Didn't they try to find a way to traverse to the other side?" Roan couldn't help but ask.

Kafan shrugged his shoulders. "Obviously, they did. However, I was secluded with my race back then. I barely got any information from outside other than the most obvious and easy ones to find. If someone found a way out, then they left a long time ago without raising any alarms. After all, such a discovery would make all powers of this side procure them."

"You can imagine what happened next," Kafan continued. "No more cultivation energy means no more breakthroughs. That means no more increased life span, no new cultivators, etc... The cultivators alive began to die one after another, and so did angels, demon beasts, and devils. The sole exceptions were the experts at the Space-Time Realm and above... and my Death Spirit Race."

Kafan once again gathered a little bit of Death Energy in his hand. "We cultivate by converging dead souls into Death Energy. That's how we have our breakthroughs. Naturally, there was no lack of energy for us. It just so happened that around that time, we noticed the problem with the Dead Souls without a reincarnation path."

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Chapter 2424: Becoming the Main Enemy

"Because of the war between the three realms, the souls of the dead were being constantly destroyed as well. After all, you never know when Soul Devils might appear on the battlefield with that many dead.

But with the war over, no one was caring about the Dead Souls around anymore. Thanks to that, Soul Devils began to appear right and left nonstop," Kafan explained.

"Of course, the high-level cultivators that were still alive noticed that problem and tried to intervene. Unfortunately, they simply didn't have cultivation energies to go around and destroy the Soul Devils and the Dead Souls anymore. Anyone with Divine Stones and similar at that time was rare, really rare."

"At some point, these same cultivators began to die, even those at the Space-Time Realm and Divinity Realm. They were strong, no doubt. However, that was as long as they had cultivation energy to fight. Without cultivation energy, they could only rely on the power of their bodies."

"I can't even imagine how it felt to not be able to control space, time, divine energy, and these things anymore. For those old monsters that were only alive because of their cultivation realm, living was probably nothing but torture. Then there was the Soul Devils. They did what they could to fight against the Soul Devils, but as more Soul Devils continued to appear, these Space-Time and Divinity Realm experts began to die, too. That is not counting those who simply decided to end their lives now that they couldn't cultivate any more."

Roan pondered a bit and asked. "When did you come out? Was it at this point of the story?"

Kafan nodded. "Indeed. After the experts of this side of the Universe got this weak, my Death Spirit race didn't have to fear being hunted anymore. If anything, we could totally dominate this side of the Realm of Gods with our strength, even if we were very few. After all, there was no lack of dead souls around for us to transform into Death Energy."

Still, Roan found it strange. "There is one thing I don't understand. Just like Death Spirits, there are other races out there that can also cultivate through the use of other energies. For example, faeries use karma, and kibins use virtues. Such races are rare, but considering the size of half of a Universe, sure, there were more of them on this side, right? Shouldn't they also have dominated this side with the Death Spirits?"

Kafan shook his head. "Did you hear my story at all? What part of my Death Race was hunted down you didn't understand?"

"Ah!" Only then did Roan remember that part. "Indeed..."

Death Spirits could cultivate without Divine Energy. Since the cultivation energies were disappearing, any race that could cultivate without them immediately became the public enemy number one. That was another reason Kafan hid with his Death Spirit race. As for the other races... they didn't have an expert at Kafan's level who could totally escape on his own even if the whole half of the Universe was pursuing him.

"Simply put, the other races that could cultivate without the main cultivation energies were completely eliminated before the situation reached a point where they would hold the absolute advantage," Kafan concluded. "Not to mention that such races usually have great difficulty cultivating and are usually very few in numbers. How could they escape the hunting of the rest of the half of the Universe? Even my Death Spirit race, which has me at the top, got most of its members killed before I took the rest and hid. Let alone the others."

Kafan sighed. "By the time we came out of hiding, there was no other race on this side of the Universe that could cultivate without the main cultivation energies. They had been eliminated a long time before that."

Roan nodded. "I understand. That was the moment when your Death Spirit Race rose to power."

"Not quite," Kafan shook his head. "I told you, didn't I? This side of the Universe was brimming with Soul Devils. Deaths and more deaths continued to happen with no reincarnation path to take care of the dead souls. When we came out, the Soul Devils had already taken the normal experts' place. Angels? Devils? Living Beings? They were done for already. If anything, the moment we appeared, we became the Soul Devils' main enemy instead."

"It's quite funny, isn't it?" Kafan couldn't help but ask. "There isn't much of a difference between Soul Devils and Death Spirits. Yet, we simply couldn't feel more threatened. The main difference between both races is that Soul Devils use dead souls directly. They are pretty much a huge agglomeration of many dead souls together. As for us, Death Spirits, we first have to convert the dead soul into Death Energy before making use of it. Each method has its advantages and problems."

Roan knew that. "Converting the dead souls first to only then use their energy is a very lengthy process. I can imagine how slow a Death Spirit's cultivation is. As for Soul Devils, their cultivation relies on absorbing dead souls directly. That's because they are, in the end, just a bunch of dead souls merged together. Their cultivation speed is many times faster, but the problems were obvious. The main one is definitely memories. The more they gather, the more jumbled their consciences become."

Kafan nodded. "When a Soul Devil is born, it is nothing more than a crazy existence that doesn't know anything. Too many consciences and memories are fighting each other inside that soul devil. Yet, this crazy existence goes around killing and absorbing even more dead souls without a limit. Very few Soul Devils can really become a single entity with a single conscience. But..."

"But there were just way too many Soul Devils, so Soul Devils that succeeded in becoming single consciences began to appear due to the huge number of them. Pretty much a brute force method," Roan concluded Kafan's words.

"Exactly," Kafan sighed once again. "Now, it was up to our Death Spirit Race, which had just a few tens of thousands of members at that time, to find a solution."

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Chapter 2425: There is One

Roan thought about the other side of the Universe. "Kafan, with your power and your Pocket Dimensional Realm, couldn't you simply go to the other side? You can even communicate to the other experts at the same level as you through the manipulation of the laws, can't you? It sure shouldn't be that difficult for you to traverse to the other side."

"Now, it wouldn't be a problem indeed," Kafan added. "The two sides of the Universe have stabilized, so it is possible if I try at this moment. However, the story was completely different back then. The power of the split of the Universe left the crossing point impossible to traverse. It was just too chaotic. The spatial storms and time inconsistency in the whole region near the splitting point were deadly even for someone at my level."

"It wouldn't be before several millions of years that it would start to calm down," Kafan continued. "Of course, if we waited until that time, my Death Spirit race would have been completely wiped out. I wouldn't be surprised even if a few Soul Devils at my level appeared by then."

"I see..." Roan didn't know about the consequences of the split, but he could tell Kafan's words made sense. "You had no choice but to deal with the Soul Devils before they got too strong."

Kafan confirmed Roan's words. "Yes. Of course, it wasn't all bad news. The Soul Devils did indeed dominate this side of the Universe by them. However, that was because all the other races were

basically mortals now. It didn't mean the Soul Devils themselves had grown too strong. The strongest Soul Devils that developed a single consciousness were something around the Transition Realm. That was far from enough to be a risk to my Death Spirit Race."

"While my Death Spirit Race members were hidden with me, it didn't mean they stopped cultivating," Kafan recounted their story. "I went around while carrying everyone in my Pocket Dimensional Realm. Obviously, I kept myself out of sight and never intervened with anything. I didn't even get close to any living beings during those hiding years to not raise suspicion."

"Nonetheless, I made full use of the dead battlefields where countless dead souls roamed without objective. I collected just enough Dead Souls to send to my Death Spirit members in my Pocket Dimensional Realm before once again hiding and only coming out many years later to refill my pocket Dimensional Realm with more dead souls."

Rean, who was hearing everything, couldn't help but narrow his eyes. 'Now that I think about it, doesn't that mean the Death Spirits are preventing the dead souls from reincarnating as well? It might be something good at this moment with the situation on this side of the Universe. But back then, before the Universe split, I'm pretty sure no one liked it very much. The idea of having their souls converted into Death Energy to increase a Death Spirit's cultivation was probably quite terrifying. I don't quite like this...'

Roan snorted through their soul connection. 'So what? Everyone cultivates the way they can. Death Spirits can only use Dead Souls to cultivate. Or what? Are you saying that we should have just waited to die because our methods were too despicable? Would you have just sat around and waited for your spirit to disappear?'

Rean went silent. At the very least, the Death Spirits weren't like the Soul Devils, going into rampages to acquire more and more souls. They seemed to have a conscience... or at least Kafan did. 'Fine, I probably would still take them to cultivate.'

'Hmph! At least you were not a hypocrite,' Roan said before turning his attention back to Kafan.

Kafan didn't hear their conversation, obviously, so he just continued his tale. "By the time we left our hiding, most of the Death Spirits in my care were in the Void Tempering Realm and above. Not to mention, they were trained by me, so they obviously were much stronger than those Soul Devils, even if my death spirits didn't have the cultivation advantage."

"That brings me to another question," Roan interrupted Kafan. "I know I was born in the Universal Transition Organization as a copy. However, how are Death Spirits, the real ones, born? Soul Devils basically are an agglomeration of countless dead souls, but what about the Death Spirits?"

Kafan smiled. "That is another reason why our Death Spirit Race has such small numbers. In fact, we are a little similar to Soul Devils in this regard... it's just that we are not an agglomeration of Dead Souls. Instead, we are a single dead soul that evolved itself into a Death Energy form."

Roan narrowed his eyes. "No wonder you said Death Spirits aren't exactly alive. They evolved from a dead form, so they are still somewhat dead. Still, how come there are only Death Spirits on this side of the Universe? Shouldn't the other side, which also has many battles, have a lot of Death Spirits as well?"

Kafan shook his head. "You were right... until the point when the Universe was split into two. After that, the other side of the Universe didn't have the conditions to give birth to Death Spirits anymore."

"Why?" Roan asked back.

"Because of the Reincarnation Path," Kafan answered. "Before, the reincarnation path took care of the entire Universe's dead souls. Thanks to that, it often missed a few dead souls here and there. When you take the size of an entire universe, those few dead souls that were not brought to the Underworld would have an extremely low chance of becoming a Death Spirit."

Kafan continued. "However, now that the Reincarnation Path is on the other side and only has half of the Universe to deal with, it simply doesn't miss any Dead Soul anymore. Every single Dead Soul, as long as it isn't purposely locked in the Living Realm for some reason, will definitely go to the Underworld. Naturally, it became impossible for Death Spirits to appear on the other side. There were definitely several Death Spirits on the other side after the split, but after such a long time, all of them probably died already. That's why you haven't found a single one there."

Kafan then remembered a certain Death Spirit. "Well, there is one Death Spirit who survived up to this day on the other side. Perhaps you will meet him someday."

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Chapter 2426: Eternally Vagrant

"A Death Spirit there?" Roan tried to remember if he knew someone who fit the description. For a Death Spirit to be alive on the other side until now, he must be at least in the Space-Time Realm, where one's lifespan doesn't matter anymore. Yet, he couldn't think about anyone.

Kafan just shook his head. "I only said perhaps. Chances are you will never see each other since that guy doesn't really come out to play with the other powers of the other side of the Universe. Even all the events going on there right now weren't enough to make him show himself."

"No wonder I've never heard about this Death Spirit then," said Roan.

"Another thing," Roan decided to ask more about the past. "You said you kept your Death Spirits in your Pocket Dimensional Realm. However, except for Death Spirits at the Space-Time and Divinity Realm, all of them should have disappeared by now for running out of lifespans, right? Still, you said your race still had a few tens of thousands when you came out of hiding."

"Oh! Isn't that obvious?" Kafan asked back. "Our Death Spirit Race's Lifespan... or death span, if you prefer, is several times higher than the other races. In general, races have different lifespans to start with. Take your human race, for example. Because humans can reproduce so fast, they have an equivalent low life span. Death Spirits, being that rare and cultivating that slowly, has an equivalent higher lifespan to make up for it. The laws of the Universe always balance things. The thirty thousand years we spent hiding wasn't much at all."

Because Roan was a Death Spirit copy, he didn't really have a cultivation level. That said, he couldn't use his own life...deathspan to compare with real Death Spirits like Kafan. Thus, he asked about it. "I understand. Well, with so many dead souls in the Universe now, sure you found a lot of Death Spirits as well, right? Your numbers should have increased a lot after this."

"I wish!" Kafan immediately denied it. "At the same time that we Death Spirits are not Soul Devils, we are still fighting for the exactly same resource. Let me ask you. Death Spirits cultivate really slowly, while Soul Devils, even while they are in their crazy state, cultivate at a frightening pace. What do you think happened to the Death Spirits near the places with so many dead souls? Also, Death Spirits and Soul Devils are very sensitive to each other's presence."

Roan bitterly smiled. "The Death Spirits that were born were quickly killed by Soul Devils before they even had a chance to understand what they had become."

Kafan didn't look very happy while thinking about it. "It's a shame, but it is true. It's not like Soul Devils can appear all the time. They are also somewhat rare, even with the right conditions. Nonetheless, compared to our Death Spirit Race birth rate, we are truly nothing compared to them. By the time a Death Spirit appeared somewhere with a good amount of Dead Souls, it probably already had a Soul Devil devouring the dead souls of the place."

"Of course," Kafan continued. "There were Death Spirits who were lucky enough to evolve from dead souls in places where there were no Soul Devils. It's just that they were even rarer than before the Universe Splitting event. Besides... we are talking here about a half-universe size. It's not like I could go around looking for them; so many more probably died without even understanding what they were or what they needed to do to cultivate. I took in the ones I found, but it wasn't enough to increase my Death Spirit Race's number by even half."

"That brings us to the next issue," Kafan switched back to the Soul Devils. "My Death Spirit Race had the advantage in cultivation compared to the new Soul Devils appearing around. Still, the Soul Devils would absolutely surpass us in time."

Roan saw the problem. "You had the power to kill them... but only the ones you could find. Half a Universe is a ridiculous size. With only a few tens of thousands of Death Spirits to do the job, it was simply impossible to get rid of the Soul Devils. In anything, there would be more of them appearing than what you could get rid of. It was a lost battle from the very start."

"Precisely," Kafan agreed with Roan. "That's why we needed to come up with a plan. But then again, only we, Death Spirits, still had the power to cultivate in this side of the Universe. There wasn't anyone else to help us. Well, the Soul Devils could cultivate, too. But they were the ones we wanted to eliminate before they wiped out all living beings on this side of the Universe."

Kafan then narrowed his eyes. "For a few thousands of years, my Death Spirit Race would go around killing Soul Devils. Not that we wanted to do it since we knew it was meaningless. Instead, for us to cultivate, we needed dead souls. Soul Devils also needed it, so we would often find them in places with a big concentration of dead souls."

"The only way for us to guarantee our survival was to continue to increase our cultivation level while taking in any Death Spirits we found on the way. Yet, we also knew this plan was limited due to the huge difference between the cultivation speed between us and Soul Devils."

"I even considered simply taking all the Death Spirits into my pocket Dimensional Realm and hiding forever, but that was way too much for everyone. None of them accepted to continue in that state and to be honest, I also was very unwilling to do so."

Kafan sighed. "Time continued to pass. More Soul Devils with singular consciences began to appear, and they were closer and closer to our levels. However, it wasn't like we weren't doing anything. Other than traveling, killing Soul Devils, and cultivating, our race was focused on finding a solution. It was then that we understood we were thinking about it the wrong way. The main problem wasn't the Soul Devils... It was the eternally vagrant dead souls!"

Death... and me

Chapter 2427: Locked Memories

Kafan continued. "We needed to find a way of getting rid of the Dead Souls. As long as we did that, the Soul Devils would have no more food. Well, they could kill living beings and take their dead souls after that. Still, compared to the abundantly available dead souls after so many years of war between the three realms, that was just a drop in the ocean."

"That would also resolve your other problem, having enough experts to deal with all the soul devils," Roan said. "Eliminating the dead souls before they could be consumed by Soul Devils also meant the Soul Devils wouldn't grow in power anymore. Sure, the Soul Devils' cultivation speed was extremely fast, but they also needed a ridiculous amount of dead souls to keep that speed."

"Yes," Kafan confirmed. "That's another advantage our Death Spirit Race had that the Soul Devils didn't. It is true that we cultivate very slowly, but we don't need even a thousandth of the dead souls that Soul Devils need to reach the same cultivation level. Once again, balance."

"Now then." Kafan didn't stop there. "We knew what the real problem was, and we knew what we needed to do to stop it. The problem was how to achieve that. How would we get rid of so many dead souls, especially since more and more of them continued to appear as living beings died? The same way we couldn't simply go around killing Soul Devils, we also couldn't simply go around getting rid of the Dead Souls."

"I and the guys continued to research this issue for a few thousand more years until finally, we found a solution. Death Spirits are, in the end, single souls that evolved to use Death Energy. Could we induce a dead soul to become a Death Spirit? We had to at least give it a try."

Kafan sighed. "I'm not proud when I say that we truly wiped out countless dead souls in this quest to find a way to artificially create a Death Spirit. The number of experiments we put them through was never-ending, and the pain we caused to them was probably something we would never be forgiven for."

"We do know we use dead souls to cultivate, but we don't torture them. Some of us couldn't even bear to continue with the experiments and separated from us. Others even tried to stop our research, saying that this was wrong. Nonetheless, we continued. In the end, the secret to creating a Death Spirit Copy wasn't in a single soul. Instead, it was in two of them."

"Two of them?" Roan heard that and pondered about the implications, the Death Spirits abilities, and what could be achieved with two instead of one. "Death Energy and a soul..."

Kafan smiled. "Seems like you have an idea."

Roan immediately answered. "You merged two souls, right?"

"Not quite," Kafan shook his head. "But not that far either. If we fused two souls, then we would basically be creating a Soul Devil. The memories of these two souls would conflict, and they would go crazy while looking for more souls to join their existence. Of course, only two souls were far, far from enough to create a Soul Devil. For a Soul Devil to be born, you would need at least a few tens of thousands of dead souls to merge together. Nonetheless, fusing only two souls would still be the same process that creates a soul devil, even if it would never really give birth to one. We couldn't do such a thing."

Kafan then gathered a little of Death Energy in his hand. "The trick of this fusion was in our Death Spirit Race's power of converting Dead Souls into Death Energy."

"First, we tried to find two dead souls that were similar to each other. The best cases were usually family members who died together. After that, we would use our power to start converting the first soul into Death Energy. However, we used a different method."

"Usually, we would transform a dead soul into Death Energy in small amounts. That way, not only could we do a good job in the conversion and waste the least amount of energy, but we could also prevent the dead soul from suffering as much as possible."

"However, in the process of creating a Death Spirit Copy, we transformed the first soul into Death Energy as a whole. Yet, we didn't make the entire soul become Death Energy. Think about it like mixing Black and White inks. You would not get black ink or white ink in the end. Instead, you would end in a common ground called gray ink. You could see both the presence of what was white and what was black before. That's how the soul ended. It would be halfway into becoming Death Energy and halfway still a dead soul."

"Only then did we take the second soul, which was compatible with the first transformed soul. Because they were close to each other, they didn't reject themselves. The second dead soul, which is a normal dead soul, would then fuse with the half-dead soul. The half-dead soul would accept the complete dead soul, and slowly, it would disappear, swapped with the complete dead soul."

"In exchange for the disappearance of the half-dead soul, the complete dead soul would fuse with the Death Energy. Remember, 50% of the first soul was now Death Energy. Yet, a new soul was now fused with this 50% Death Energy. Finally, we succeeded. We got a Death Spirit, which isn't exactly a Death Spirit, capable of using Death Energy."

Hearing all of that, Roan couldn't help but ask. "Then... I once wiped away the existence of some family member?"

"It doesn't necessarily mean that we used a family member's soul. As long as they were compatible, they could be used. Yet, it is very likely that you did since compatible souls without bloodline links were very rare," Kafan explained.

Roan sighed and couldn't help but think he, too, had a family in a previous life, a life from before he even became a Death Spirit Copy. However, he couldn't do much about it, nor could he remember it anyway, so he decided to leave this matter aside... until Kafan spoke.

"We also seal the Death Spirit Copy's memories of his previous life to prevent any issues. Death Spirit Copies are many times easier to train when they don't have memories of their past lives. They are like babies. As you know, it is always easier to absorb new experiences the younger you are. Still, if you want..." Kafan's expression turned serious. "I can unlock those memories from before you became a Death Spirit Copy."

Death... and me

Chapter 2428: Whatever

Roan was taken aback for a moment and immediately asked Sister Orb. 'Shouldn't the system get rid of anything that affects my soul? Kafan said he could unlock my sealed memories. How come the system didn't get rid of it until now?'

[The system only protects you against harmful things to your soul,] Sister Orb answered. [If someone tried to seal your memories at the moment, the system would definitely consider it as a harmful event and stop it from happening. However, the memories from before you became part of the system are not the system's problem. You could say the system took a picture of how your soul looked when it first took you in and then ensured it stayed that way. Even I didn't know you had a seal in your memories until this point.]

Roan mentally nodded, knowing that the system wasn't exactly thoughtful about such things.

Rean, having heard everything, obviously asked. 'What will you do? Do you want to remember what or who you were before you became a Death Spirit?'

'Why do you ask?' Roan asked back.

Rean shrugged his shoulders. 'I'm very curious to know how you were before and would very much like to know. However, considering your personality, it simply doesn't seem like something you would care about. I can already picture you saying: whatever happened happened. It matters no more now... or something like that.'

Roan didn't deny that. If he couldn't remember and it made no difference to his state at the moment, then it truly held little importance in his mind. If anything, unlocking memories of the past might change who Roan is right now.

In the end, he simply looked at Kafan and shook his head. "Forget it. I have too much on my plate right now to deal with. If I awaken some unknown new memories, not only will I have to organize my thoughts, but it might change who I am, and I'm very happy with my actual self for now."

Kafan's expression relaxed before he gave a nod of approval. "As expected, you always take the most optimal path. Very well, I will not awaken those memories." Right after, Kafan took a black crystal that contained a trace of his soul power inside and some Death Energy. he threw the crystal at Roan right

after. "If you one day change your mind, just inject some Divine Energy into this crystal. It will react with the seal in your memories, unlocking everything inside. You can keep it, throw it away, or simply forget it exists. That's your choice."

Roan looked at that crystal and had the urge to break it right there and then. However, he held himself back and ultimately stored it inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Perhaps one day, when everything is over, he might want to know more about his past, so there was no harm in waiting until that time.

Kafan nodded and put this matter aside. "Very well. Let's continue, then. Your full soul fused and took the place of 50% of the first soul while taking control over the other 50% of Death Energy. That's how you became a Death Spirit Copy. Naturally, you were not a Real Death Spirit, so the ways of the Universe didn't work very well for you."

"What do you mean?" Roan got confused.

Kafan pointed in Roan's Dantian direction. "For a start, Death Spirit Copies can't cultivate. Or perhaps they can, but since cultivation energies didn't exist anymore, they didn't have such a chance. Who knows, if this side of the Universe regains its cultivation energies, perhaps the Death Spirit Copies will evolve to gain a cultivation method. Or perhaps not, I can't be sure."

Roan understood. "The same way the races alive on this side evolved to live without cultivation, so can they evolve to cultivate again once cultivation energies return. Death Spirit Copies might do the same."

"Exactly," Kafan nodded. "The life forms of the Universe are really amazing. They can always adapt, grow, and evolve according to the environment. It is truly a marvel of chaos. Well, it is a good thing, in my opinion."

"Continuing, after we succeeded in creating our first Death Spirit Copy, we immediately tried to get it to cultivate," Kafan explained. "Too bad that we soon found out it was impossible. Such Death Spirits didn't have that ability, as I mentioned to you a moment ago. However, these Death Spirits had something that we, real death spirits, didn't."

Roan knew what it was. "Strength from the very start, right?"

Kafan was surprised Roan noticed it. "Yes! That's exactly what we noticed. Every single one of these Death Spirit Copies had a huge strength compared to any real new Death Spirit. A Real Death Spirit would start its cultivation from zero, just like any other race. Energy Gathering, Foundation Establishment, Core Formation, Core and Soul Fusion, etc, etc, etc..."

"Yet, every single Death Spirit was able to control enough Death Energy to be compared to at least a Nascent Soul Realm Death Spirit from the very start, with some being good enough to reach the Elemental Transformation Level of power. Of course, the huge majority was truly just at the Nascent Soul Level. Those who could perform above this level were few and far between."

Roan nodded. "I've never cultivated when I was a Death Spirit Copy. Yet, comparing the memories of my ability during that time and the cultivation world on the other side, I'm pretty sure I was quite strong. I was already like that since I first awakened as a Death Spirit Copy."

"Indeed," Kafan knew that. "You were obviously one of the Death Spirits who was born with an Elemental Transformation Realm level of strength. Of course, like I said, you weren't really at the Elemental Transformation Realm. In fact, you didn't have any cultivation at all. That was simply your raw power."

Kafan felt quite proud. "I trained countless Death Spirit Copies, yet you were truly a special case. Your abilities were so good that if you were a cultivator, you would be the type who could jump an entire realm to fight. The more I trained you, the more I liked you and your personality. In the end, I got a little too attached and decided to find a way for you to cultivate, which ultimately ended with us having this conversation now."

"Yes, yes, yes, whatever." Roan wasn't really the emotional type to join this kind of discussion. "Just continue the story."

Death... and me

Chapter 2429: Death Doors

Kafan couldn't help but show a gloomy expression. "You truly have no regard for your master's feelings... Your master is sad..."

Rean quickly complained. 'Look at what you have done! You don't need to be so cold, you know?! There is so much love in there, yet you can't accept it. Truly regretful...'

[Boooooo! Boooooo! That's not how a disciple should treat his master!] Sister Orb didn't lose the chance to join the conversation.

'Yes! Sister Orb is right!' Rean agreed immediately.

Roan's mouth twitched. 'Fuck you! No wonder he liked you back then. You two are equally annoying! What is it? Were you three some kind of blood siblings in a previous life or something? I have no patience for this!'

Roan was also merciless to Kafan outside. "Stop the bullshit! You are reminding me of that fucking idiot and an even bigger and rounder idiot!" Roan couldn't help but wonder if he had some kind of fate with these types of characters. That was truly unfortunate, if that was true, he thought.

Kafan immediately remembered who Roan was talking about. "Oh! I told you, I truly liked the boy. I also want to meet the rounder idiot. Hahaha!" Seeing Roan grow even angrier, Kafan decided to stop there. "Alright, alright. Let me continue."

"Now we had the method to create Death Spirit Copies, but how should we use them? Even the best ones only had a power similar to Elemental Transformation Realm experts. It was still not enough for them to open Spatial Gates on their own. That's when we decided to create the Universal Transition Organization," Kafan explained.

"Because of the complete lack of cultivation energies in this side of the Universe, any resistance towards spatial abilities completely disappeared. You noticed it already, didn't you? Spatial Gates can be opened so much further away than anywhere else on the other side."

Roan nodded. "It is indeed the case."

Kafan sipped a little more tea. "So, thanks to that, we developed new methods of using Death Energy. The first one was that instead of Cultivation Energies, this side of the Universe would be covered in Death Energies instead."

Roan immediately remembered. "That makes sense. Regardless of where I went to do my job as a Death Spirit on this side of the Universe, I always had access to Death Energy. The only difference was whether it was more concentrated or not. The further I was from the Organization, the smaller the concentration. Still, it was always there, more than enough to keep my job going."

"That's correct," Kafan laid a little back on his chair as he talked. "We found out that not only was the resistance to spatial powers nonexistent but that with Death Energy, it made it even easier to use. With Death Energy around, it was possible for even the Nascent Soul Level Death Spirit Copies to open a special type of Spatial Gate. We called them the Death Doors, although very few use this name."

"The Death Doors, obviously, used Death Energy to open. The best thing was that it could connect to any place as long as it was within the range of the Death Energy Source. Once we covered this side of the Universe with Death Energy, we were able to send Death Spirit Copies literally anywhere within its range."

Kafan didn't seem very happy at that point. "Of course, there was a problem. Death Energy is not like the cultivation energies from the Chaos Origin Source. It doesn't have an unlimited supply. Dead souls are necessary to create it."

"That's where the Organization comes in," Kafan continued. "For us to be able to cover this side of the Universe with Death Energy, we would need to sacrifice more Dead Souls than we had ever done before. Yet, by now, everyone understood we truly had no other choice. It was that, or wait for the Soul Devils to consume all dead souls."

Roan knew it was not an option. "Once the Soul Devils finished the dead souls, they would kill all living beings so that they could get even more Dead Souls. Most of them have no consciousness and only act on instinct, after all. Sooner or later, all living beings would be wiped out."

Kafan sighed. "Compared to that, the sacrifice of the dead souls was many times better. I'm not saying it was a small price. The price was no doubt enormous. We, Death Spirits, were truly messing up with the whole reincarnation system. Too bad the reincarnation system ceased to work on this side. We had no more Reincarnation Path to prevent that."

"What came after that was pretty obvious," Kafan quickly put those feelings aside and continued. They have been doing it for way too long to have any regrets now. "Through the creation of Death Spirit Copies and the possible transportation of those copies anywhere, we quickly gathered as many Dead Souls as possible."

"The Universal Transition Organization began to convert all the dead souls and transform them into a new source, similar to what we believe the Chaos Origin Source would look like. It's just that it would need a constant influx of Dead Souls to work."

"That was convenient in a certain way," Roan said. "To prevent Dead Souls from becoming Soul Devils, you needed to get rid of the Dead Souls. The fact that transforming them into Death Energy also fixed this issue was a good thing... even if it left a bad taste in the mouth."

"That it was..." Kafan agreed with Roan. "We started with the Dead Souls near the center of this side of the Universe. Countless Dead Souls were transformed into Death Energy every single minute. At the same time, compatible Dead Souls would be transformed into Death Spirit Copies and trained. These Death Spirit Copies would then open Death Doors within the range of the Death Energy and get even more dead souls. Thanks to that, the source became stronger, and the Death Energy range increased."

Roan couldn't help but ask. "But... what about the Soul Devils?"

Death... and me

Chapter 2430: Not Enough

Kafan snorted. "What about them? I told you, didn't I? We at least had bigger cultivation than the Soul Devils on this side. We finally found a solution to get rid of the Dead Souls before they transformed into Soul Devils, and that's exactly what we did."

"Of course, there were the Soul Devils who were already alive. Nonetheless, the strongest ones by this time were still somewhere around the Void Tempering Realm, with a scant few having reached the Space Bending Realm level."

"Our Universal Transition Organization might not have many Death Spirits, but we definitely have many more at such a level or higher. At the moment, on this side of the Universe, my Universal Transition Organization has four Divinity Realm Death Spirits. Back then, it still had two. What could the Soul Devils of that time do against us? Nothing!"

"If they all gathered together and came to attack us, that would have been even better. With our individual power, we could easily get rid of all of them at once. The problem was truly the size of the

Universe and the overall amount of them. With so few members of our race, it was simply impossible to eliminate more Soul Devils than there were born at the same time."

"Our race was to find a method to prevent them from becoming too strong to the point that we couldn't fight them anymore. Fortunately, we succeeded," Kafan explained.

Roan nodded. "So that's how it happened..."

Kafan continued. "Yes. From there on, it was quite simple. We got more Dead Souls that were transformed into Death Energy or new Death Spirit Copies. These Death Spirits went further and further away on this side of the Universe as Death Energy's range increased by the minute."

"That wasn't all. As I told you, there were some Devils that even managed to reach the Space Bending Realm. However, the majority were obviously in lower realms. With our Death Spirit Copies having a power equivalent to Nascent Soul Realm at least, these same Death Spirits Copies were able to deal with many weaker Soul Devils."

"You see, Soul Devils take a long time to organize their crazy minds until they become single consciousness. Usually, that doesn't happen before they are at least in the Elemental Transformation Realm. That means the Soul Devils below this level are just beasts that try to kill anything in their way and absorb more Dead Souls. Simply put, they are much, much weaker than normal experts at the same levels. That made getting rid of such Soul Devils even easier."

"Our Death Spirit Copies continued to multiply, and they killed countless low-level Soul Devils. As for stronger Soul Devils, we had our own Death Spirits to go out hunting them once they were within the Universal Transition Organization's Death Energy Range. After all, if a planet was within this range, the copies would often come by and take away any new Dead Souls. Soul Devils simply had no chance of spawning in such places anymore, so it was worth it getting rid of the strong ones in such places."

"At the same time, we were slowly getting rid of the issue of too many Dead Souls. The Soul Devils at the Transition Realm and above were able to open Spatial Gates, so they noticed our movements and moved further and further away from the center of this side of the Universe. They pretty much hoped that they could increase their strength before we covered everything."

"Well, it wasn't a bad idea. Even though our Death Energy Range was increasing nonstop, we are truly talking about half a Universe here. It was a ridiculously big place to cover with our Death Energy from the Universal Organization. By the time our Death Energy Range covered 50% of this side of the Universe, over fifty thousand years had gone by! The further we needed it to go, the longer it took as the area got bigger."

"To be honest, even our Death Spirits were a little concerned that some Soul Devils might really reach the Divinity Realm level if we took too long to cover the entire Universe with Death Energy."

"Hehe!" Kafan suddenly smiled. "However, the Soul Devils that had gained their consciousness and fled deeper into this side of the Universe quickly found another big problem. Can you imagine what it was?"

Roan pondered a bit. "Could it be you kept sending Death Spirits to hunt them down? That would make things a lot harder for them since they must cultivate fast."

"No," Kafan shook his head. "In the end, only our Real Death Spirits could use Spatial Gates instead of the Death Doors. Our numbers haven't changed much in the past fifty thousand years, so how could we cover such a big place and hunt them all down? Instead, the Soul Devils themselves began to kill each other. Hahaha!"

Roan's eyes lit up. "I see... with all the Soul Devils who could use Spatial Gates fleeing deeper into the Universe, that means the concentration of Soul Devils increased exponentially in such areas. Simply put, there weren't enough Dead Souls for all of them to cultivate anymore."

Kafan nodded with a satisfied expression. "Besides, once a being starts to cultivate, its energy can't be used by others. The good and old problem of energy compatibility. That should be the case for Soul Devils, too, so they couldn't absorb each other. They killed themselves to prevent the other from absorbing the Dead Souls they wanted for cultivation."

"Still, there were too many of them and not enough Dead Souls. In a certain way, the Soul Devils themselves helped us get rid of a lot of Dead Souls while also helping us kill other strong Soul Devils. We simply couldn't ask for anything else. Of course, I'm not an idiot. Do you remember those Space Bending Realm Soul Devils I told you about? They were unstoppable in such places and absolutely didn't attack each other, so they did manage to cultivate further. Too bad that it was still not enough."